

COD FISHERY.

Unsettled market conditions early in 1915 did not augur well for the cod industry. Preparations, however, were made to carry on the business in Alaskan waters along the same lines followed in the previous year. The vessels engaged in offshore fishing were outfitted and despatched in March and April from home ports at San Francisco and on Puget Sound. The run vessels made several trips to the Alaskan shore stations to take north supplies and return with the catch. The fishing vessels operating both in the vicinity of the Shumagin Islands and in Bering Sea had a successful season although weather conditions were unfavorable part of the time. The shore stations did not do as well as in some seasons past. Along toward the end of the year market conditions improved somewhat.

The concern heretofore listed as the Matheson Fisheries Company is now designated under the name of J. A. Matheson. Early in the year the Alaska Codfish Company added the schooner Mawseema (392 tons) to its fleet of fishing vessels. On March 12, 1915, this company suffered the loss of the power schooner Nonpareil (31 tons) which went ashore on Unga Island, Alaska. No lives were lost. This vessel was used in connection with the company's shore stations in Alaska. It is reported as having been the first power schooner engaged in the Alaskan cod fishery. It was sent north from San Francisco about 5 years ago.

At its cannery at King Cove the Pacific American Fisheries put up experimentally a few cases of canned cod. The fish were packed in 1-lb. flat cans and were treated in a manner quite similar to the ordinary method of canning salmon. Cans opened several months later showed the

product to be firm and white and in every way justifying the conclusion that the experiment was a success. It is believed that this field is worthy of further development and exploitation.

The following vessels were operated in connection with the cod fishery in 1915:

ALASKA COD FLEET, 1915.

Names.	Class.	Net tonnage.	Operators.
Azalea	Schooner	327	J. A. Matheson, Anacortes, Wash.
Fanny Dutard	"	252	"
Wawona	"	413	Robinson Fisheries Co., Anacortes, Wash.
Alice	"	220	"
John A.	"	235	Pacific Coast Codfish Co., Seattle, Wash.
Charles R. Wilson	"	328	"
Maid of Orleans	"	171	"
Fortuna	"	138	Northern Codfish Co., Seattle, Wash.
Glendale	"	281	Alaska Codfish Co., San Francisco, Cal.
Allen A. (b)	"	266	"
City of Papeete	"	370	"
Mawaema	"	392	"
Nonpareil (a)	Power schooner	31	"
Ottillie Fjord	Schooner	247	Pacific States Trading Co., San Francisco, Cal.
Bertha Deibee (b)	"	230	"
Secoia	"	324	Union Fish Co., San Francisco, Cal.
Vega	"	233	"
Galilee	"	328	"
Golden State (b)	Power schooner	223	"
Pirate	"	30	"
Union	"	9	"
Union Flag	"	7	"
Martha	Schooner	14	"

(a) Wrecked March 12, 1915.

(b) Transporting vessels.

SHORE STATIONS.

Shore stations were situated as follows: Alaska Codfish Co.:

Unga, Squaw Harbor, and Kelleys Rock, on Unga Island; Companys Harbor and Murphys Cove, on Sannak Island; and Dora Harbor, on Unimak Island.

Pacific States Trading Co.: Northwest Harbor, Herendeen Island.

Union Fish Co.; Pirate Cove, Popof Island; Northwest Harbor, Herendeen Island; Pavlof Harbor and Johnson Harbor on Sannak Island; Unga, on Unga Island; and Dora Harbor, on Unimak Island. Also several smaller independent shore stations were operated in the Shumagin Islands region, including John H. Nelson, at Squaw Harbor, and Nick H. Johnson, A. Grossfeld, and A. Komedal.

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Statistical Summary.

The investment in the Alaska cod fishery in 1915, including both offshore and shore stations, was \$570,990, as compared with \$623,921 in 1914. There was, however, an increase in the number of persons engaged, there being 747 employed in 1915 as against 677 in 1914. This is a gain of 70 persons for 1915. Figures for the shore stations in the States are not included.

The products of the Alaska cod fishery this year aggregated 14,195,775 pounds, valued at \$390,199. The figures for 1914 were 15,045,378 pounds, valued at \$438,208, thus showing a decrease in quantity for 1915 of 849,603 pounds and in value of \$48,009.

INVESTMENT IN THE COD FISHERY IN ALASKA IN 1915.

Items.	Number.	Value.
Vessels:		
Power vessels	4	\$38,000
Tonnage	269	
Launches under 5 tons	11	4,624
Sailing vessels	18	181,288
Tonnage	4,769	
Boats, row	453	15,800
Pile drivers	2	250
Apparatus:		
Gill nets	1	40
Hand lines	3,613	1,948
Cash capital		212,827
Value shore stations		116,203
Total		570,990

PERSONS ENGAGED IN THE ALASKA COD FISHERY IN 1915.

Occupations and races.	Number.
Fishermen: Whites	648
Shoresmen:	
Whites	147
Natives	19
Total	166
Transporters: Whites	33
Grand total.....	747

PRODUCTS OF ALASKA COD FISHERY IN 1915.

Products.	Pounds	Value.
Vessel catch:		
Salted cod	10,553,175	\$291,479
Tongues	18,800	1,380
Total	10,571,975	292,859
Shore-station catch:		
Salted cod	3,603,000	96,300
Stockfish	8,400	420
Tongues	12,400	620
Total	3,623,800	97,340
Total:		
Salted cod	14,156,175	387,779
Stockfish	8,400	420
Tongues	31,200	2,000
	14,195,775	390,199

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